services and also to improve the awareness about the importance of institutional delivery and the facilities available for it.

- Operationalizing the Community Health Centers as First Referral Units (FRU) for providing Emergency Obstetric and Child Health services.
- Equipping 50% of all Primary Health Centers with 24-hours delivery services, by 2010.
- Strengthening of sub-centers to improve service delivery by providing united fund of Rs. 10,000 each.
- Appointment of Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) in every village for every 1000 population who will facilitate pregnant women in accessing health facilities for antenatal care, institutional delivery and post-natal checks ups.
- Ensuring quality MCH services by implementing the Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) for Primary Healthcare Facilities, by providing infrastructure, specialized man-power and equipment.
- Training of Medical doctors in emergency obstetric care and administering anesthesia for cesarian section.
- Ensuring skilled attendance at every birth.

**High speed train**

*277. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY J.DARDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal regarding introducing trains with speed up to 250 km. per hour is under his active consideration;

(b) if so, whether our existing rolling stock and the track is capable of withstanding movement of such high-speed trains;

(c) initially what is the sector on which such a train would be run, and

(d) whether his Ministry would also take into consideration that services ofsuch trains are also available to our countrymen and not just confined to foreign clients only?

THE MINSITER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) It has been decided to undertake Pre-feasibility studies for construction of high speed passenger corridors.

(b) Introduction of High Speed Train with speeds of 250 Kilometre per hour (kmph) and above require separate dedicated infrastructure including tracks, rolling stock etc. Such trains cannot be introduced on the existing network of the Indian Railways.

(c) The specific sector on which such trains would run has not been decided. Pre-feasibility studies will be undertaken for construction of one dedicated high speed passenger corridor each in the Eastern, Western, Northern and Southern regions of the country.

(d) Such train services would be planned for maximum passenger utilization.

**Shrinking of wetlands**

†*278. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government are aware that wetlands such as lakes, ponds and wet areas in the country especially in the metro cities are shrinking rapidly;

(b) If so, whether Government have formulated any specific action plan to control it;

(c) If so, the details thereof; and

(d) The details of expenditure made by Government for the development of wetlands, state-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir. Wetlands such as lakes, ponds and wet areas in the country are shrinking in size due to anthropogenic pressures, uncontrolled siltatioh, weed infestation, discharge of sewage, and industrial effluents, surface run-off, chemical pesticides and fertilizers.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.